

# Meeting Summary

## Seismic Safety Committee (SSC)

April 22, 2002



### Summary

- SSC decided upon an "Action Statement" format for recommendations to the EMC Annual Report
- Subcommittees will have their recommendations done by May 30
- Four action items were approved:
  1. Call a joint meeting of the SCC subcommittee chairs and their counterparts in Committee on Terrorism (COT) to share information
  2. Bill Steele will provide SSC a one-page summary of technology issues
  3. Dave Nelson will exchange meeting minutes from the subcommittees to all members
  4. SSC to review and recommend potential funding for ANSS

### Agenda

The purpose of this 3-hour day meeting was to review the following:

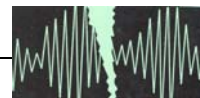
- Progress of subcommittees updating recommendations for the *EMC Annual Report*
- Recap the Failure of HB 1555
- Discuss Funding Mechanisms for ANSS

Ron Teissere opened the meeting for Doug Sutherland. The previous meeting summary was approved.

### Timeline for Annual Report

#### Glen Woodbury Vice Chair

Glen Woodbury, SSC vice chair, recapped the overall legislative timeline for SSC's upcoming recommendations to the EMC Annual Report. "Annual Report" is the term SSC will use for consistency in packaging its policy recommendations. Those recommendations come from four subcommittees-- Structures, Emergency Management, Lifelines, and Information and Technology. Subcommittee recommendations will be sent to the EMC for inclusion in the Annual Report. May 30 is the overall



deadline for the subcommittees' recommendations. June 28 is the deadline for sending the recommendations on to the EMC.

The legislative timeline follows this flow:

- **March.** Emergency Management Committee (EMC) last met in March. Its next meeting is May 2. It is the body that will present the EMC Annual Report to the Legislature. The SSC's Annual Report is one of several from subcommittees chartered with giving input to statewide emergency management policy
- **May.** EMC reviews draft report.
- **July - September** is policy and budget development season
- **October – December** is when the Governor's Office approves policy and budget items for the upcoming session
- **January - April** is the Washington State Legislative session. It is during this session that the Annual Report's recommendations may be approved.

The object of this timeline is to raise policy issues in the first half of the year. Thus, the draft Annual Report is an opportunity to push SSC policy. By following this timeline, the SSC will know what first reactions are to its recommendations. This is the first year the SSC has used this timeline. It should be a good model to follow for future Annual Reports, with June as the target for setting seismic safety policy agendas.

## Format for Recommendations

The SSC defined the product it is developing. Because the EMC Annual Report is finding new use this year, SCC has an opportunity to present issues and impact policymaking. It will do that by presenting its recommendations as **short action statements**. For example, the Structures Subcommittee might say, "Adopt the IBC 2000."

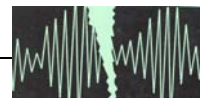
There is no need for assessments in the SSC Annual Report. The SSC is required, instead, to come up with a basis for policy. If assessments are available and a subcommittee finds critical information, they should make their recommendation using that data.

## Subcommittee Updates

### Structures/Ken Korshaven - City of Lynnwood

The biggest problem for the Structures Subcommittee has been participation. The group has had several midstream changes in membership makeup.

Structures' approach to information gathering has been to cite **where to find** specific data rather than to **provide the data**. Many Web sites have great data. That information is not well coordinated, however.



#### Possible Recommendations:

- **Offer better training in building codes** within state leads the list of likely recommendations from this group. Adoption of the International Building Code (IBC) remains a big issue. The 2002 Legislature did not adopt the IBC. That means there is still confusion over use of Uniform Building Code (UBC) and the IBC.
- **Provide financial incentives.** Joan Scofield has been looking at possible financial incentives, which all come with political negatives.
- **Improve school structures.** These remain a problem. The subcommittee needs a new person to work on this.
- **Improve Emergency Response** (police and fire) **Buildings.** Jim Walkowski.
- **Improve hospital buildings.** The Washington State Hospital Association representatives just began work on gathering this information.
- **Improve government buildings** These were an issue following the Nisqually quake.
- **Provide a structures databank.** Someone must be available to update a databank that gives information status on buildings. EMDs need to know which buildings are most stable in order to set up safe command centers.

#### **Emergency Management/Karin Frinnell-Hanrahan** Grays Harbor County EMD

Karin will represent the Emergency Management Subcommittee at the SSC meetings. Eric Holdeman will continue to lead subcommittee meetings. They plan to have their draft recommendations complete by May 15.

#### Possible Recommendations:

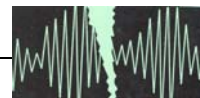
- **Improve public education.** The 1998 report recommended brochures. Current technology is too Web-based for that. E-learning and university degree programs further complicate this issue.
- **Classify emergency workers.** Does new liability protection affect this?
- **Continue to build public/private** partnerships in preparing for earthquakes. There is a much softer line between these two than existed in 1998.

#### **Lifelines/Craig Weaver** USGS

The subcommittee has met twice, with one final meeting planned. They plan to complete their recommendations by May 17.

#### Possible Recommendations:

- **Identify Washington's most critical lifelines.** Need to determine systems upon which to focus efforts. There is neither criteria nor consensus for doing this.



- **Conduct lifelines criteria workshops.** SSC could recommend a two-tier system of statewide and regional lifelines. All jurisdictions need to participate. WSDOT has defined a “snow emergency” lifeline route of I-5, SR 167, I-405 and SR 99. What is critical to the state is not necessarily critical to local jurisdictions..
- **Establish an Office for Inventories.** Inventories of critical facilities, school buildings, and fire and police need to be kept and updated. EMD is ideal for this. Both the 1991 and 1998 reports recommended inventories, which were not done.
- **Training.** Need better and more high-level training for cities. Leon Kempner is working on this. People don't really know what to do.
- **Accelerate highway retrofits.** Somehow, we have to explain economic importance of accelerating retrofit program, especially the mega-projects.

**ACTION ITEM #1:** Call a joint meeting of the SSC subcommittee chairs and their counterparts working on the Committee on Terrorism (COT). The purpose would be to avoid duplication and share ideas. Someone attending this meeting should capture the terminology used. For example, “critical” and “lifelines” do not carry the same meaning for all. Some agencies consider banks lifelines. A clear set of terms needs to be used in the EMC Annual Report.

## **Information & Technology/Bill Steele** University of Washington

Bill Steele represented Tony Qamar for this meeting. The subcommittee first met March 28. Because information and technology were not categories in earlier reports, a major problem has been to narrow scope. Communication technology alone is exploding in both type and use. Alternate technologies keep emerging. These include how data is screened and the formats in which it is presented. This group will need a full year to gel. But it plans to come up with a few specifics in its next meeting, which is set for April 23.

### Possible Recommendations:

- **Provide a basic organization for this broad category.** Basic organization will follow from the answers to several basic questions:
  - What kind of products do EMDs need?
  - What's being produced?
  - What kind of monitoring is needed to produce those?
  - What kinds of systems are needed to deliver the more technically advanced communication?
  - What kinds of data sets can be used to create these?
  - How do we improve data flowing into these?



- **Enlist foot soldiers in improving emergency technology.** Many groups are out there lobbying for information and technology improvements. The pipeline industry is interested, for example. SSC can get good input from engineering and other groups involved with ANSS.

**ACTION ITEM #2:** Bill Steele will prepare a one-page summary on current technology.

**ACTION ITEM #3:** Dave Nelson will provide all subcommittee members with other subcommittee meeting minutes.

## **HB 1555 Failure**

Tim Nogler

This bill failed to pass the 2001 session. HB 1555 would have required statewide implementation of the International Building code, or IBC. Every three years codes are updated into what is called a "code book." In 2003, the IBC is due for updating, and SSC hopes that the Legislature will adopt IBC next year.

HB 1555 failed largely because competing interests opposed it. At issue was who would be responsible for building inspections under IBC, which is currently used by many cities. The Building Codes Council (BCC) fully supports the IBC as do structural engineers and the AIA. The snowstorm of 1996 and the Nisqually earthquake brought to the public attention the ineffectiveness in enforcement of codes in certain areas. IBC would simplify enforcement.

What's next? Currently local code enforcement varies widely from city to city. Many local code officials are looking at implementing the IBC while allowing UBC as an alternative method. Because most cities and counties have broad authority for enforcement, there can be enforcement of both an IBC and a separate fire code. Builders can, in effect, be asked to abide by the two differing sets of codes.

In response to this dilemma, building officials have settled on approving projects one of two ways:

1. Case by case decide that using IBC is as safe the current state code (Uniform Building Code, or UBC)
2. Adopt the IBC as an ordinance and your code. Then the city's legislative body accepts safety responsibility.

A secondary problem in adopting the IBC is that most people are trained in UBC. It will take time to retrain. There are subtle and continual tradeoffs in adapting one code or the other.



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## Funding Mechanism for ANSS

Tim Walsh, DNR

Tim Walsh recapped his and George Crawford's progress toward identifying a funding mechanism for the Advanced National Seismic System (ANSS) improvements in Washington. ANSS is incrementally funded by Congress. The Pacific Northwest portion of this national plan to improve earthquake safety calls for a significant upgrade to the seismic network at the University of Washington. At present, Washington State doesn't fund any of the Pacific Northwest Seismic Network (PNSN). The USGS does. PNSN is unable to provide SHAKEMAPS, an important tool for EMDs. in real-time. For example, this function was moved to CalTech during the Nisqually quake.

ANSS needs about \$250,000 in funding to work in the Pacific Northwest. This money would go for new seismic instruments and to hire a strong motion seismologist, who would put together SHAKEMAPS for EMDs and others requiring real-time reporting.

Potential funding mechanisms These include a surcharge on building permits. This source could potentially raise as much as \$500,000 a year. Tim offered the following two-tiered funding mechanisms:

1. Adjust charges for eastern and western Washington. The western side of the state must meet higher standards in response to its higher risk.
2. Charges for commercial and residential rates. The residential rate would be \$6 per 100,000 residential property value.

Glen Woodbury suggested that either funding scheme may not be easy to propose as a referendum. If it goes to the Legislature, it is hard to sell in just three sentences. The group discussed the benefit of making this a line item in the budget given its relative small size (\$250,000).

Action Item #4: Tim has identified a potential mechanism. In a month or so, the EMC will look at a variety of recommendations. The SSC needs to tweak the details to present a thoughtful package that will get executive support. The benefits need to be clear. Rather than recommend fees, the SCC should recommend funding concepts.

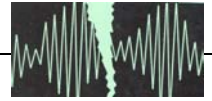
MOTION: the SSC recommends that on May 2 meeting of the EMC a motion be made to support policy improvements in earthquake monitoring.

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## Closing

Ron Teissere, Vice Chair

- The next meeting is May 29, Wednesday at 1:00 to 4:00 in Camp Murray. The Annual Report is due to EMC on June 28.
- The meeting ended at 4:15



## **SSC Meeting Participants:**

Mr. Ron Teiserre, Vice Chair, DNR  
Mr. Glen Woodbury, Vice Chair, EMD  
Mr. Dennis Anderson, Dept. of Health  
Ms. Sophia Byrd, Washington State Association of Cities  
Mr. George Crawford, EMD  
Dr. Terry Egan, EMD  
Mr. Bob Frietag, CREW  
Ms. Karin Frinell-Hanrahan, Grays Harbor County DEM  
Mr. Chuck Hagerhjelm, EMD  
Ms. Chris Jonientz-Trisler, FEMA  
Mr. Ken Korshaven, City of Lynnwood  
Mr. Jerald Lavassar, Ecology  
Mr. Dave Nelson, EMD  
Mr. Tim Nogler, State Building Code Council  
Ms. Joan Scofield, Office of the Insurance Commissioner  
Mr. Terry Simmons, WSDOT  
Ms. Dianna Staley, EMD  
Mr. Bill Steele for Tony Qamar, UW  
Mr. Tim Walsh, DNR  
Dr. Craig Weaver, USGS